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16 MAR 1982

Mr. John W. Sewell
President
Overseas Development Council
1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Sewell:

Thank you for the advance copy of U.S. Foreign Policy and the Third World: Agenda for 1982. The Overseas Development Council's annual assessment of U.S.-Third World relations is a valuable element in the dialogue between U.S. Government officials and students and observers of U.S. economic policies toward the developing countries.

This year's assessment is certainly thought-provoking. Your introduction captures the essence of the importance of the developing countries as actors in the international arena and as economic and political partners of the United States.

Albert Fishlow's essay on liberal trade policies for the 1980s strikes at the heart of LDC development problems over the next several years. The so-called "newly industrializing countries" and the roster of "NICs of the future" are areas to which we are devoting considerable analytical attention. Robert Paarlberg puts a much-needed emphasis on the likelihood that national solutions to LDC food problems will be more effective and efficient than international welfare schemes and more complementary to overall Third World economic development. Finally, John P. Lewis articulately and convincingly argues that development assistance is a vital foreign policy instrument.

I fully expect that this year's ODC assessment will, as have previous issues, become an essential part of the libraries of Third World economic and political analysts at CIA.

Sincerely,

/s/ William J. Casey

William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence